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AIR FORCE

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OGC Has Reviewed

26 June 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: DO/IRO

25X1 FROM :
Chief, Classification Review Division/ISS

SUBJECT : Review of Transcript (Taped Interview) by
Colonel Keith R. Grimes

1. The Grimes Transcript (Attachment 1) was submitted to the Agency by the Department of the Air Force with a request that we provide assistance in determining the classification and also provide recommendations for a sterilized version (see AF cover memo - Attachment 1).

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2. The Classification Review Division has reviewed the document. We believe the document contains information of interest to the DDO and therefore request that your office conduct an additional review. When completed please return the transcript along with your comments and recommendations to C/CRD.

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3. Since the request was for assistance in determining overall classification, we interpreted this as going beyond the ordinarily narrow range of strictly agency interests and, therefore, reviewed the document in a somewhat broader context than might have been applied if only agency interests were considered.

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4. The document is a bit different from the usual type of material reviewed by CRD in that it falls somewhere between a manuscript and the State FRUS's. Manuscripts are generally written by former agency employees. While they must be sterilized to a certain degree, their release does not constitute Official Executive Disclosure, and therefore can sometimes be judged with a more liberal eye. The FRUS's on the other hand, are generally factual documents of historical value whose release does constitute Executive Disclosure.

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5. The Grimes transcript, although an official U.S. Government document, is nevertheless a type of autobiography and therefore, includes judgments and perspectives of an individual not necessarily accurate or factual.

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6. To resolve this dilemma, of the OGC was contacted for an opinion. He informed us that, in his mind, the release of this type of document would constitute Official Executive Disclosure. With this in mind we reviewed the document from a rather conservative perspective. Furthermore, in the matter of going beyond the narrow purviews of agency interests, Mr. advised us that we, the Agency, would have the latitude to classify, retain classification, or delete for sterilization items that although not directly related to agency activities per se, nevertheless, involved foreign relations of the U.S. Government.

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11. In response to the second part of the Air Force's request, that is, to provide a sterilized unclassified version of the Transcript, it is recommended that this not be done. So much material would have to be deleted that it would substantially destroy the essential fabric of the transcript and provide a wholly misleading and factually incorrect representation. []

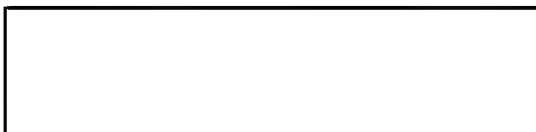
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12. Attachment 2 is a listing of approximately 92 deletions that would have to be made should an attempt be made at sterilization. The deletions are noted in yellow marker on the transcript. This does not take into account the fact that even with these deletions we would be confirming [] as well as their actual participation in ground combat. Since this is a major topic of the entire transcript there is no way that it can be deleted. []

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13. It should also be noted that not all of the photographs were included in our copy of this transcript, therefore no judgment can be rendered on the missing photos (pages 8, 36, 99, 117, and 118). []

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Attachments

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